



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

July 19, 2013

Reply To
Attn Of: OWW-130

CERTIFIED MAIL- RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Jay R Whitcomb
1965 Oriole Drive
Missoula, MT 59808

Re: NPDES Permit No.: IDG-37-0064
Small Suction Dredge Mining

Dear Jay R Whitcomb:

This letter is to inform you that you are authorized to operate a small suction dredge in Moose Creek, at approximately 46.757861 N. Latitude, -115.080056 W. Longitude; 46.75772 N. Latitude, -115.0799 W. Longitude; and 46.75738 N. Latitude, -115.0067 W. Longitude, near Pierce, Idaho under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Small Suction Dredge Placer Miners in Idaho (General Permit). Please note that you are authorized to operate a suction dredge only in the receiving water(s) listed in this letter. If you plan to dredge in a different location, please submit a new Notice of Intent at least 60 days in advance of any planned dredging, and wait for written authorization from EPA before discharging at the new location.

You must keep a copy of this letter and the enclosed General Permit at the dredge site at all times. Enclosed are two copies of your "Miner Number" (0096) which must be displayed on your dredge and in a vehicle near your dredge site. Authorization under this General Permit does not relieve you from the requirement to obtain a permit from the Idaho Department of Water Resources and/or from complying with any additional closures and timing restrictions.

Please note, you must comply with all of the requirements in the General Permit, including the monitoring and reporting requirements found in Part II.C. An Annual Report (AR) is due to the EPA by January 31 of each year for the previous year's activities and the AR must include all of the information found in Appendix B of the General Permit or a report of "No Mining." A courtesy copy of the AR form is enclosed and can also be found on our website at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/npdes+permits/idsuction-gp>.

Please also note that an Endangered Species Act (Act) opinion has been issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to section 7 of the Act, on effects of the Moose Creek Suction Dredging Program proposed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest [*Suction Dredging on Forest Service Managed Lands in the Moose Creek Drainage—Clearwater County, Idaho—Biological Opinion; In Reply Refer to: 01EIFW00-2013-F-0260, July 2, 2013*]. You must work with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to ensure that your operation is in compliance with the measures detailed in the relevant USFS consultation documents for this General Permit to remain valid.

This General Permit expires on April 30, 2018. If, during this time, you no longer need coverage under the General Permit, or you have a new mailing address, please inform the EPA so that we can properly document your inactivity and provide any reminders for reporting and/or renewing the General Permit.

If you have technical questions regarding this permit please contact Tracy DeGering in our Idaho Operations Office in Boise at degering.tracy@epa.gov or (208) 378-5756.

Sincerely,

for Tracy Deering
Michael J. Lidgard, Manager
NPDES Permits Unit

Enclosures

cc: John Cardwell (John.Cardwell@deq.idaho.gov) – Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality, Lewiston
Regional Office
Clint Hughes (cehughes02@fs.fed.us) – U.S. Forest Service, Nez Perce-Clearwater National
Forests



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